

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044017

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW EC BRUSSELS  
LUXEMBOURG FEB 21, 1976 FROM ROME

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2812

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPRO, IT, CSCE, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE FOLLOW-UP

1. THE CHIEF OF THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE MULTILATERAL OFFICE OF THE MFA'S POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (ROBERTO FRANCESCHI) REQUESTED EMBOFF TO CALL AT MINISTRY FEB 20, FOR A DISCUSSION OF CSCE FOLLOW UP RELATED MATTERS. SPECIFICALLY, THE ITALIANS ARE CONSIDERING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD REPLY TO BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCES ON ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE PUT ON THE AGENDA OF THE EEC'S NEXT CSCE WORKING GROUP MEETING TO BE HELD IN LUXEMBOURG NEXT WEEK. WHILE THE ITALIAN THINKING REMAINS IN A PRELIMINARY PHASE, THEY ARE FORMULATING A POSITION IN OPPOSITION TO THE BREZHNEV PROPOSAL. FRANCESCHI EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NINE SHARE THIS POSITION TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER WITH THE FRENCH THE MOST VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED TO THE BREZHNEV INITIATIVE. AT THE SAME TIME THE ITALIANS ARE CONCERNED

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THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES NOT FIND THEMSELVES IN A DIFFICULT

DEFENSIVE POSITION AS THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES GO ONTO A WELL-COORDINATED OFFENSIVE ON CSCE RELATED MATTERS.

2. FRANCESCHI ALSO REPORTED RECEIVING A TELEGRAM FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW INDICATING THAT RUMORS ARE CIRCULATING THERE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE THINKING OF ASKING FOR A DELAY IN THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING SCHEDULED FOR BELGRADE IN 1977.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM FRANCESCHI, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 24 CURRENT WASHINGTON THINKING CONCERNING THE BREZHNEV PROPOSAL, AND ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE LOBBYING FOR IT EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE. (FRANCESCHI INDICATES THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE HERE IN THIS REGARD.) ADDITIONALLY, ANY LIGHT WE CAN SHED ON THE RUMORS THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS PICKED UP IN MOSCOW WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED. VOLPE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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